

**To:** Strauss, Alexis[Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov]  
**From:** Blumenfeld, Jared  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 10:05:02 PM  
**Subject:** RE: options for weekend note to Gina

Excellent! Thanks

**From:** Strauss, Alexis  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 2:51 PM  
**To:** Blumenfeld, Jared  
**Subject:** options for weekend note to Gina

**Animus River:** we're working with Regions 8 and 6 to anticipate potential effects of the mine-tailings spill upon downstream users, and welcome Matt's convening of a daily call. I've reached out to Navajo President Begay, and my team is working with NN EPA Director Dr. Ben, and the Arizona DEQ and Navajo Nation drinking water programs. Navajo Nation EPA advises that water being served to potentially affected communities is safe, as the San Juan River and Farmington (NM) water intakes were already shut due to high turbidity. Water is being hauled to remote Navajo communities. We are sending staff, contractors and a press/community involvement staff to Navajo to ensure they are fully assisted in ensuring safe drinking water.

**Tailings Piles:** Dennis McLerran and I are working together to respond to your request to assess the extent of existing and abandoned tailings dams. I've been focusing on the Argonaut Mine in California, one of our pre-eminent such risks, and involving our State partners as we undertake removal actions, and remain concerned about the prospect of a wet winter at this site. We're completing a Region-wide tailings pile inventory for Dennis in the next week.

**CNMI typhoon:** we are sending two OSCs, an inspector and possibly 1-2 staff to assist recovery in the aftermath of the typhoon. The OSCs will oversee a Mobil gasoline release, and at FEMA's behest, we'll develop a debris management plan and bring Saipan's drinking water system back on-line. We may then collect and dispose of household hazardous waste and other hazmat (damaged electrical transformers).

**Western Regional Partnership:** On August 12, I'll address the Western Regional Partnership Principals' meeting in Reno about EPA's efforts to address drought. After the WRP meeting, I'll meet with the editorial board of the Reno Gazette-Journal and discuss the Clean Power Plan and

abandoned mines.

**Water Innovation:** OW, ORD, OEI and Region 9 will support a hackathon in San Francisco next weekend focused on the water sector. <http://www.waterinnovationproject.com/hackathon-2/> EPA ORD is a co-sponsor, providing data sets and problem statements. Region 9 is also supporting a similar outreach event at the California Academy of Sciences next weekend.